

Regulations

The federal government promulgated new regulations for used oil on Sept. 10, 1992. The regulations aim to protect human health and the environment and promote recovery of used oil.

Idaho adopted these used-oil regulations on Feb. 11, 1994. Used-oil handlers (transporters, processors, generators, and burners) are subject to all applicable spill prevention, control and countermeasures listed in 40 CFR part 112 and the Underground Storage Tank Standard in 40 CFR part 280, in addition to the used oil requirements. Depending on the activities your facility engages in, other regulations may apply as well.

This brochure is intended as a guide to the used-oil regulations. If you would like to see a copy of the regulations, you can call the RCRA hotline at 1-800-424-9346. You can also look in the Federal Register from Sept. 10, 1992 or 40 CFR part 279. Both of these publications are available in most libraries.

Used-oil information series

This is part of a series of brochures on used oil. Other brochures cover used-oil regulations for generators, burners of off-specification used oil, and obtaining an EPA identification number in Idaho.

Used oil and the environment

- One pint of oil can make a slick an acre square.
- One quart of oil will foul the taste of 250,000 gallons of drinking water.
- Used oil mixed with hazardous waste can have toxic or carcinogenic effects on humans.

Minimize waste

The greatest economic and environmental benefit can be realized by reducing the amount of waste produced. Try to reduce the amount of waste you produce first, then look for ways to recycle waste that can't be eliminated.

Consider collecting do-it-yourself (DIY) used oil. Not only are there benefits to your business, but your program really does make a difference to Idaho's environment.

For more information

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Your Guide to Idaho's Regulations for Used-oil Generators



What is a generator?

There are over 1,000 regulated used-oil generators in Idaho.

A regulated generator means any person, by site, whose act or process causes used oil to become subject to regulation. Some examples of generators are:

- vehicle repair shops;
- service stations;
- motorpools;
- taxi, bus, or delivery fleets;
- city, state or county road maintenance fleets; and,
- shipyards.

People who change their own oil (do-it-yourselfers) are not considered generators. Also exempt are farmers who generate an average of 25 gallons per month or less.

What are used-oil fuel marketers?

A used-oil fuel marketer:

- directs a shipment of off-specification used oil from their facility to a used oil burner; or
- first claims that used oil to be burned for energy recovery meets the specifications set forth in 40 CFR §279.11.

Requirements for generators

If you meet either or both of the criteria listed under “Used-oil Marketers,” your facility is subject to regulation under 40 CFR part 279 subpart H (See back of the transporter brochure).

Used-oil generators must:

- store used oil only in tanks and containers, or units subject to regulation under 40 CFR parts 264 or 265;
- keep storage tanks and containers in good condition, as defined in 40 CFR §279.22;
- clean up any spills or releases of used oil;
- use a transporter with an EPA identification number when shipping used oil off-site; and
- mark containers, above-ground tanks, and fill pipes with the words "USED OIL."

Used oil may NOT be applied as a dust suppressant at any time (40 CFR §279.82).

There are incentives for service stations that collect used oil from do-it-yourselfers and send it off-site for recycling. If these service stations comply with the regulations, they are not liable for emergency response costs or damages resulting from threatened or actual

releases of used oil resulting from subsequent handling of the oil.

Tips for generators

Generators should:

- choose used oil transporters and recycling facilities carefully;
- confirm that the transporter has an EPA identification number, know where your used oil is taken after it leaves your facility, and keep records of shipments made;
- thoroughly drain non-terne plated oil filters (used in most cars and light trucks) to avoid hazardous waste characterization requirements; oil filters must be punctured and hot-drained (or use an equivalent method, like crushing) to remove all free oil;
- employ and enforce good housekeeping procedures to avoid spills and contamination of recyclable materials;
- not mix hazardous waste or other contaminants into your recyclable used-oil waste stream;
- teach staff about the used oil regulations;
- start a do-it-yourselfer collection service at your facility; and
- post a sign about your program and teach your staff how to accept used oil.